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Government & Politics Newsletter

Spring 2008/Issue 4



SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

DEAR

A warm greeting from the Department of Government and Politics. There are many interesting developments, both professional and personal, that have transpired from our last communication. Maintaining a close relationship with political science alumni is so very important to us and we regard our newsletter as an important bridge between the political science faculty and former students. Please keep in touch. Let us know what is new in your life.

Dr. K.'s Retirement

As many of you know, Dr. K has officially retired from Sacred Heart University. Sadly for us, our beloved and esteemed political science professor will no longer be a member of the Sacred Heart faculty. An accom-



plished scholar, mentor and friend to literally thousands of students, Dr. K. decided to retire after 37 years of teaching, 28 of which were on the campus of Sacred Heart University. The Department of Government and Politics hosted a special reception for Dr. K. which was attended by many of his current and former students. E-mails and gifts arrived from across the globe in honor of this master educator. Dr. K. delivered his "last lecture" in the Schine Auditorium which was attended by more than one hundred students, faculty and staff. He reflected on the state of international politics, orga-

nizational management, and his career as a professor. A standing and lengthy ovation followed which brought tears to everyone's eyes. It was truly a moving experience and one that we will cherish forever. The Department of Government and Politics and Sacred Heart University will not be the same without Dr. K. For those of you who would like to send a note to Dr. K., please forward your note to the Department of Government and Politics. He will be packing his books throughout the summer and checking his mail with regularity.

REQUEST TO All ALUMNI FROM DR. K.

Dr. K. has requested that any alumni who still has the memorable quotations that he integrated into his lectures to please forward them to one of his websites: Dr-K5@sbc-global.net or Dr-K@typepad.com. He would be most appreciative if you would do this for him. These are the quotations which Dr. K. would put on the board and which served as springboards for class discussion.

THE DR. JOHN F. KIKOSKI POLITICAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of our retiring colleague, Sacred Heart University has established a scholarship in Dr. K's name. Enclosed in this issue of the newsletter is a pledge card which allows alumni to participate as donors to this

newly established and prestigious scholarship. The annual recipient of the Dr. John F. Kikoski scholarship will be a senior political science major in excellent academic standing. The recipient will be expected to have a particular interest in the field of international politics. The scholarship will be funded through alumni contributions and awarded at the annual Pi Sigma Alpha induction ceremony in late spring.

Constitution Day

The third annual "Constitution Day" lecture was delivered on September 17th 2007 before a large audience in the Edgerton Theater. Our guest speaker this year was United States Congressman Christopher Shays. Congressman Shays, a moderate Republican who represents the Fourth Congressional District in Connecticut, discussed the war in Iraq as well as his personal experiences and observations acquired during his eighteen visits to this volatile and war torn country. Congressman Shays noted the slow but steady progress with respect to Iraq's political development and expressed optimism about Iraq's future as a democracy. A lively question and answer period followed the Congressman's formal delivery.

Visit By Connecticut Supreme Court Justice

On March 1, 2008, Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Barry A. Schaller visited Sacred Heart University. Justice Schaller participated in a luncheon with pre-law students and faculty. The luncheon was followed by a public delivery in the Board Room of the William H. Pitt Center. Justice Schaller's public presentation was titled: "Courts, Constitutions and Public Policy." Justice Schaller will return to Sacred Heart in September as our guest speaker for the annual "Constitution Day" lecture.

Presentation By United States Secret Service

On March 29, 2008, the Department of Government and Politics in conjunction with the Department of Criminal Justice hosted a special forum conducted by two Special Agents from the United States Secret Service. The two hour forum, held in the Edgerton Theater, featured a film re-

garding the Secret Service, a power point presentation, equipment demonstrations, and an excellent discussion by the agents concerning internship and career opportunities.

Pi Sigma Alpha Induction

On April 18, 2008, thirteen outstanding political science students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. The guest speaker this year was Ms. Eileen Heaphy. Ms. Heaphy is a retired Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. State Department. She reflected on her many intriguing experiences in Latin America and Western Europe and fielded questions concerning career opportunities. Ms. Heaphy is currently an adjunct instructor for the Department of Government and Politics.

Student Awards

The Gold Medal for Academic Excellence in Political Science was awarded to Mr. Stephen Winter. The Silver Medal for Academic Excellence in Political Science was awarded to Ms. Maureen Curtis. Mr. Jason Guberman-Pfeffer was the recipient of the recently established Evelyn Conley Scholarship awarded to a promising pre-law political science major. Jason also authored a scholarly article titled "Truth and Falsehood: Islamists on Their Own Terms" in *Global Perspectives*, Spring, 2008, pp. 45-54. This publication is an undergraduate international affairs journal published by the Occidental College Office of Global Affairs. Jason's article was completed under the advisement of Dr. Kikoski as a component of his capstone course for the minor in Middle Eastern Studies.

Student Nominated for Women's Leadership Forum

Ms. Whitney Wildman, a political science major in the University's Honors Program, attended the National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Institute at St. Anselm's College in June, 2008.

Political Science Internships

For the 2007-08 Academic Year, students served as interns at the Connecticut state

Capitol, on the staff of Congressman Christopher Shays, in local law offices, and at Reed Exhibitions in Norwalk, Connecticut. Students received academic credit for their experiences and gained valuable contacts for the purpose of future employment. The 36 credit major in political science allows students to complete up to nine internship credits. Active and engaged learning remains a central feature of the political science experience at Sacred Heart University.

Graduate School Placement

Ms. Teresa Fennell has been accepted into the graduate program in criminal justice at Sacred Heart University. Teresa completed her political science degree at Sacred Heart in three years.

Dr. Thomas P. Melady's Op-Ed.

Dr. Thomas P. Melady, Senior Ambassador in Residence at the Institute for World Politics, penned an op-ed for the *Washington Post* regarding Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S. "The Papal Visit," April 2, 2008. Dr. Melady is a former Ambassador to the Holy See, Uganda and Burundi. He is also President Emeritus at Sacred Heart University and an honorary alumnus of the political science program.

Full-Time Faculty News

Dr. Lesley DeNardis published a co-authored article "Financial Performance in Connecticut's Municipalities: A Comparison of Manager, Mayor Council and Selectman Forms of Government" in the *New England Journal of Political Science*, Volume II, No. 2. A second co-authored article is forthcoming: "Assessing Competition Policy Performance Metrics: Concerns About Cross Country Generalizability" in *Indian Journal of Economics and Business*, Volume 7, No. 1. In addition to her publications, Dr. DeNardis presented three professional papers regarding municipal government in Connecticut. Her papers were delivered at the Joseph W. Martin Jr. Institute for Law and Society, Stonehill College in Massachusetts, and the New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Rhode Island. Her current research projects involve charter revision in two Connecticut communities, and

school finance reform in Connecticut. She recently received a scholarship grant from the University which will support her research efforts. Dr. DeNardis is a participant this summer in the President's Seminar on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Dr. John Kikoski's short-term research plans mainly involve: (a) travel within this grand country by automobile to see and appreciate more of the United States' beaches and mountains, prairies and people; and (b) travel abroad to visit France where Mrs. Kikoski has close family and childhood friends. Longer-term academic research (which is already underway) involves revisions of two previous books on managing culturally diverse workgroups, as well as inquiry within organizations. A newer project involves research on innovation and creativity.

Dr. Steven Michels was appointed the new Director of the Thomas More Honors Program. He replaced Dr. Walter Brooks who served as Honors Director for several years. The Honors Program is a unique program of study at Sacred Heart University for a highly select category of students. Dr. Michels was also granted tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, an important professional milestone. We congratulate him on this achievement. Dr. Michels' scholarly activity resulted in a co-authored publication "Can The Daily Show Save Democracy?" in *The Daily Show and Philosophy*, ed. Jason Holt (Malden, MA: Blackwell Press, 2007): 81-92. Additionally, Dr. Michels completed three articles currently under review for publication in professional journals, served on the editorial board of and referee for *Scientific Journals International*, and served as political theory section chair at the New England Political Science Association's Annual Conference in Rhode Island. Dr. Michels' current research project involves the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes.

Dr. Gary Rose published two books during the 2007-08 Academic Year. *Connecticut Government and Politics: An Introduction* (Fairfield: Sacred Heart University Press, 2007), and *The Emerging Catholic Electorate: Political Perspectives of College Students at a Catholic University in the Northeast* (Mason, OH: Thomson, 2008). He authored a magazine article "The Youth Vote in 2008: Up for Grabs or Staying

Home?" in *The Ripon Forum*, December 2007/January 2008, Vol. 41, No 6: 17-19, and authored an op-ed: "As Maine Goes, So Should Connecticut" in *The Connecticut Post*, August 12, 2007. He offered extensive commentary regarding the presidential nominating contest for local, state and national media. He is formulating plans for a fresh research project over the summer.

Adjunct Faculty News

Ms. Louise DiCocco-Beauton, Esq. once again taught her popular elective on lobbying and the legislative process. Ms. DiCocco is the lobbyist for the New Haven Chamber of Commerce. Her course features an array of guest speakers, a trip to the state Capitol, and unique insight into practical politics.

Dr. James Boisi taught a section of Introduction to American Government. Congratulations to Jim on receiving a full-time teaching position in New Jersey.

Mr. Christopher DeSanctis was appointed by Governor M. Jodi Rell to the Metro-North New Haven Rail Commuter Council. Mr. DeSanctis taught the introduction course to American government. Congratulations also to Mr. DeSanctis on the birth of his second son, Reagan Gerald.

Ms. Eileen Heaphy taught the Introductory course to international relations on the Stamford campus. Her experiences as a foreign service officer in the U.S. State Department added a very special dimension to this course.

Dr. Alka Jauhari presented papers on African politics at professional conferences throughout the 2007-2008 Academic Year. Dr. Jauhari presented papers at the African Studies Association in New York, and the New England Political Science Association Annual Conference in Rhode Island. She taught several courses on international and comparative politics. Dr. Jauhari has received a one year appointment to fill the position vacated by Dr. K.

Mr. Jerry Lindsley, the President of the Center for Research and Public Policy, which is housed at Sacred Heart University, taught a political science elective on public opinion polling and research. Students learned the science associated with polling and participated in the development and implementa-

tion of a Sacred Heart University Poll.

Dr. Paul Madonna taught introductory courses on American government and international relations. He also taught comparative politics electives. Dr. Madonna was highly instrumental in arranging for the visit of Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Barry Schaller.

Ms. Kate O'Gara taught sections of introduction to American government and is scheduled to offer multiple sections of the new core curriculum course *The Human Community*.

Captain Eric Refsnider, the Director of the ROTC Program at Sacred Heart University, taught his highly acclaimed War course this past academic year. The course includes students from all disciplines as well as ROTC cadets.

Mr. Rob Russo, Esq. was elected to the Connecticut state senate in a special election conducted in March, 2008. Mr. Russo, who teaches an introductory American government course, will seek reelection in the forthcoming November election.

Alumni Updates

Robert Antonellis ('98) is the senior analyst at the FBI's Counterterrorism Division with responsibility for South Asia. He was awarded the Office of the Director of National Intelligence Exceptional Analyst Fellowship.

Lauren Black ('07) works for the Kennedy Center in Trumbull, Connecticut.

John Bowman ('95) is Community Relations Coordinator with Keiser College in Florida. John and his wife Jessie (also a former Sacred Heart student), recently traveled on a 7 day Caribbean Cruise during which time they renewed their wedding vows in Labadee, Haiti on Hideaway Beach, Dragon's Point.

Matthew Brovender ('92) is an Attorney in Stamford, Connecticut.

Jason Bowsza ('04) is the clerk for the Environment Committee at the Connecticut state Capitol. He was recently elected to the Board of Finance in East Windsor, Connecticut.

Mark Capone ('96) is an Auctioneer in Am-

sterdam, New York and owns his own Antique Shop and Auction Hall. He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for the Amsterdam Industrial Development Agency.

Joshua Cole ('98) is an Attorney with Mayo, Crowe, LLC in White Plains, New York.

Louis D'amarino ('06) completed his Master's in Public Policy at SUNY, Stony Brook and works as a legislative aide in Suffolk County, New York.

Alexis Dionne ('02) works for a geographical association in Washington, DC and volunteers at the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

John Eacobacci ('02) is a Program Support Specialist in the Policy Division of the Rhode Island Housing Department.

Cindy (Lisa) Egloff ('99) is an Attorney in Long Island. She worked as a Mentor at Sacred Heart University before returning to New York.

Lauren Faggione ('07) works for Bloomberg, L.P. in New York.

William Geddish ('06) is a law student at Hofstra University School of Law.

Jeffrey Guillot ('04) works as Junior Director of Communications for CBC Media Inc. in Islandia, New York and specializes in writing media content for state and local political campaigns. He is also a campaign worker for the Suffolk County Democratic Party.

Michael Haynes ('05) completed his MPA at the University of Delaware and is Account Executive for the United Way of Long Island, N.Y.

Michael Johnson ('05) has been promoted from research assistant to legislative analyst for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Sara Kolb ('05) is the Clerk of the Judiciary Committee at the Connecticut state Capitol.

Michael Kraft ('02) is a college scout for the New York Giants.

Anthony Leo ('96) is the Northeast Account Development Manager with Eastman Chemical Company.

Peter Markey ('06) is in Melbourne, Australia working in the Performance and Reward Division of Ernst and Young. He is complet-

ing his MA thesis in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at New York University.

Pamela Manns ('07) is on active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Tim McCranor ('05) is living in Yemen and gaining proficiency in Arabic. He plans to attend graduate school in Washington, DC next year.

Alexandra (Bothos) McGoldrick ('96) is a Grants Writer for the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Brian Mignault, Jr. ('06) works for IBM in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Michael Moloney ('07) is a law student at the Roger Williams School of Law in Rhode Island.

Sarah Morrill ('00) works as a community planner for the town of East Haven, Connecticut. She is also the Chairperson of the Hamden Republican Town Committee.

Michael Muszynski ('05) is the Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator in the Government Relations Department for the American Cancer Society. He is also a law student at the Western New England College School of Law.

Jennifer Paquette ('05) is a lobbyist for Camilliere, Cloud and Kennedy, LLC at the Connecticut state Capitol. She was recently selected by the Hartford Business Journal as among 40 rising stars in the field of business who are under the age of 40.

Jamin Riddick ('07) is in Officer Candidate School for the U.S. Air Force.

Michaela Rydstrom ('02) is Environment Health and Safety Assistant for the Brick Industry Association in Reston, Virginia. She is responsible for government relations and PAC management.

Geoff Sauer ('01) is Director of International Sales for Reed Exhibitions in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Sword Shaw ('05) returned from Japan where he taught English for the Nova company.

Jason Stark ('00) is a Researcher for the House Republicans at the Connecticut state Capitol.

Fred Stula ('04) is the Clerk for the Housing Committee at the Connecticut state Capitol.

David Stewart ('06) is a law student at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. He recently interned in the District Attorney's Office in Harris County, Texas.

Mark Taylor ('94) is an English teacher at Brookfield College in Dasmarias, Philippines.

Gary Turco ('03) is a Policy Aide to the Speaker of the House at the Connecticut state Capitol. He is co-president of the Connecticut Young Democrats and served on the steering committee for Chris Dodd for President. He is pursuing a graduate degree in public policy at Trinity College.

Bryan Wilbur ('02) is a Real Estate Appraiser in Fall River, Massachusetts.

We trust that you have enjoyed our Spring, 2008 newsletter. Stay well.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Rose, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Government
and Politics